



SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

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Honking the Green Horn-et

This [publicity photo](#) from last year's *Green Hornet* blockbuster features a menacing vehicle outfitted with heavy artillery under the tag line "Breaking The Law To Protect It".

Now as much as State employees may fancy themselves as superheroes locked in an eternal crusade against evil, these employees too often submit to their placid public sector position.

Things are about to change, though. Ambitious new green transportation initiatives are driving State operations into the 21st century. Tweaking the *Green Hornet* tagline, let's call it "Evolving the Law to Protect the Environment".

First, we have the **Electric Vehicle Advisory Council**.

After releasing its statutory [Final Report](#) in December

2011, the Council continues to investigate issues surrounding a state-wide electric vehicle rollout.

Next is our new State **Zipcar** master contract. Across agencies and commissions, employees are ditching their fleet vehicles and embracing a thrifty and sustainable car-sharing ethos. The contract also allows us to deliver Zipcards to agencies that previously had no travel alternative.

However, as an avid biker I should not say *no* travel alternative. Each year the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission organizes a **Bike to Work Week** promoting



sustainable commutes. We expect thousands of State employees to dust off their velocipedes this spring.

Finally, we are encouraged by ongoing progress in our State procurement of 15 electric vehicles. The atmosphere is certainly electric as employees prepare to charge up these vehicles at stations across the State in the coming months.

So let State employees celebrate for a moment. They may not be masked ninja warriors who commute with dazzling parkour poise. Instead they're diligent public servants who often need to travel from Point A to B to serve the public good. Now, thanks to heroic strides in green transportation, they can sustain this travel regimen while saving resources and protecting the environment.

Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Gabriel.Sulkes@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.illinois.gov

Artistic Stimulus



"The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations."

- Illinois Constitution, Article XI

Jeanne Gang's "The Garden in the Machine" Transforms Cicero



Abstracted from StudioGang.net. Click [here](#) for an official brochure describing the contract.

Jeanne Gang's "The Garden in the Machine", developed for The Museum of Modern Art's [Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream](#) exhibition, is a proposal for transforming the inner-ring suburb of Cicero, Illinois, to better meet the living and working needs of its residents. Cicero, a former factory town, struggles with the foreclosure of its industrial properties as well as its homes. With its abandoned factories and subsequently vanished jobs, Cicero's high immigrant population is faced with unemployment, poverty, and environmental degradation.

"The Garden in the Machine" demonstrates how the remains of Cicero's industry—its lands, building materials, and existing rail infrastructure—could be transformed into healthy and thriving neighborhoods. It proposes using nature and technology to improve the land, while combining housing and jobs within new, flexible live/work structures interwoven with a variety of public green spaces. In addition to this architectural vision, the project proposes revised zoning and a different form of ownership, one that allows citizens to purchase and sell shares corresponding to the live/work units they occupy. With the increased economic opportunities created by these proposed conditions, Cicero could become a successful "arrival city" where America's newest residents can pursue their own, uniquely 21st-century American Dreams.

Electric Press:

Myths & Truths: The Electric Vehicle Forum



The American Lung Association in Illinois, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, will be presenting a series of state-wide forums designed to present information about activities relating to the roll-out of electric vehicles in Illinois.

The forums are tentatively scheduled for April - June 2012. Municipal entities, private groups, fleet owners, electric service companies, car dealerships, car rental companies, car mechanics, and the general public are all encouraged to attend.

Detailed information regarding specific topics as well as dates and locations will be available in the near future. In the meantime, please feel free to e-mail Angela Tin Angela.Tin@LungIL.org with the Subject line "EV Forum" for more information.

Illinois DCEO Launches IllinoisEnergy.org/EV Site

The screenshot shows the Illinois DCEO website. The header includes the DCEO logo and the slogan "Illinois' Growth is our business". The navigation menu on the left lists various categories, with "Energy & Recycling" selected. The main content area is titled "Electric Vehicles in Illinois" and contains the text: "Illinois has provided early leadership in supporting the adoption and use of electric vehicles (EV's) throughout the state:". Below this text is a photo of a white Nissan Leaf parked in front of the Governor's Mansion in Springfield. The caption reads: "An electric vehicle (the Nissan Leaf) parks to use the charging station at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield."

The Illinois DCEO recently launched its electric vehicle web headquarters at IllinoisEnergy.org/EV. The site will soon become an internet hub for EV information as efforts expand to introduce new vehicle technology across the state.

Revenge of "Revenge of the Electric Car" in Chicago

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) Community Cinema, in conjunction with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Cultural Center, will be screening an afternoon showing of Chris Paine's "Revenge of the Electric Car". Admission is **free** and the film will air at 2pm at the **Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL.**

Click here for more information and visit ITVS.org for more information on the Community Cinema program.



Spotlight

Elgin's Green Expo 2012—May 4th and 5th, 2012

The fourth-annual Elgin's Green Expo is set for May 4 (1pm to 8pm) & May 5 (9am to 4pm), at the Centre of Elgin. With thousands of visitors each year, this green event is the largest of its kind in the Fox Valley and will be held for two days this year. The 2012, Elgin Climate Change Organization's (ECCO), Elgin's Green Expo is presented in partnership with Waste Management, Davey Tree, Kane DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District and the City of Elgin Sustainability Commission. Admission is free!

As 2012 is the International Year of Water, we've added a special component to this event- a second day where we're inviting all municipalities along the Fox River to join us for a special symposium called Watershed Wanderings (see below). Public attractions will include a 5,500 gallon aquarium stocked with fish from the Fox River, water dragon dancers, canoe/pontoon trips, a green car show, a huge petting zoo, farmer/garden/wellness/kids exhibit areas, exhibits & contests showcasing green products & services for the individual/home/business/government, live entertainment, an eco-art show, a locavore deli & bar, plus much more. So, this year, add to the excitement and get involved as a partner, sponsor, or an exhibitor. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to market your business or organization in the highest capacity possible.

100 Symphony Way, Elgin IL 60120

Click [here](#) for more information.

Stage Agencies Launch 2nd Annual Rain Barrel Contest

For a second consecutive year, IDOT is teaming up with Illinois Correctional Industries to provide a rain barrel design contest for Illinois students. Students from third grade through high school are encouraged to submit an artistic design for the exterior of a rain barrel. There will be 45 submissions selected.

Submissions must be made through a school's principal or teacher. A school can only make one submission in each of the three age divisions. The three age divisions are third to fifth grade; sixth to eighth grade and senior high school.

Artwork must be postmarked by March 30, 2012. Winners will be announced during the week preceding Earth Day, which is April 22, 2012.

Designs for the exterior of the rain barrel should pertain to Earth Day, the environment or have a scene depicting nature.

Anyone seeking additional information or a blank template for the rain barrel design can contact Steve Massey, the IDOT Sustainable Practices Manager. Massey can be reached at (815) 434-8414 or at steve.massey@illinois.gov.

See an official press release [here](#). Watch a video on "How to Make a Rain Barrel" [here](#)



Sustainable Grant & Opportunities

1) 2012 Pollution Prevention Source Reduction Assistance—Request for Proposals

The Federal EPA's Regional Pollution Prevention Program Offices anticipate having up to \$147,000 per region or up to \$1,470,000 in total award funding to issue Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) awards in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

Source Reduction Assistance awards are issued annually to support environmental projects that reduce or eliminate pollution at the source. The grants fund proposals that support the P2 program's strategic goals – reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs), reduce toxic and hazardous materials, increase resource conservation, promote efficient business practices and support P2 integration.

Specific Region 5 (Illinois) priorities include:

- Projects that prevent pollution in the hospitality (e.g., hotels, venues, restaurants), health care, and sports sectors through the use of environmentally sustainable tools, processes, practices and/or programs.
- Promote geographically-based projects that support sustainable manufacturing through the use of pollution prevention. These projects must make use of networks such as Economy, Energy, and Environment (E3) partnerships or other local collaborations to provide technical assistance to the sector.
- Promote tribal college/university-based technical assistance programs that assist tribal facilities in preventing pollution through the use of tools that promote environmentally-sustainable processes, practices and/or programs.



Proposals are due **April 10, 2012**.

2) National Farmers Union Accepting Applications for the Beginning Farming Institute

(NFU) encourages individuals who are contemplating starting a career in farming or ranching to apply for the Beginning Farmer Institute. The program is also open to those across the nation who have just begun farming or are in the process of transferring an operation from a parent, relative, or non-relative. Applicants accepted into the 2012 program will attend three separate education sessions, to be held in April in Washington, D.C., November in Minneapolis, Minn., and at the NFU Convention in March 2013 in Springfield, Mass. Program topics will cover business planning, understanding U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, tax and record keeping, and marketing. A \$25 registration fee is required for accepted candidates. The NFU Foundation will cover the costs of materials, transportation, and lodging. This program is supported by the NFU Foundation, Farm Credit and CHS Foundation.

Click [here](#) for an application and visit NFU.org for more information



Courtesy of ChristopherMartinFineArt.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Critical Mass** bike ride rolls through the Chicago Loop on the last Friday of each month. The ride start from Daley Plaza, Dearborn & Washington at 5:30 pm. Join in and click [here](#) for more information!





Caught Green-Handed





The **Green Governments Coordinating Council** was proud to introduce the new Caught Green-Handed feature in the State's FY 2011 Annual Report. In these profiles, the GGCC celebrated those individuals who went above and beyond in their sustainability work for the State of Illinois. You can view the Annual Report and review these break out sections [here](#).

This administration recognizes that extraordinary individuals from across the state far exceed call of duty in order to advance our State's sustainability mission. While the GGCC Report was an opportunity to honor State employees who emulate our green ethos, Governor Quinn wants to extend this recognition beyond State government. These individuals will serve as models for future generations of environmental advocates in Illinois.

The **Sustainable Cities News & Updates** publications provides a dynamic forum to continue our search for "green handed" Illinoisans. *Please* nominate deserved individuals in your organization to be featured in this ongoing section of our newsletter.

Nominations should include your organizational affiliation and contact information as well as contact information for the nominee. Please provide a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments and include specifics where possible.

A representative in Governor Quinn's office will contact you and your nominee if your submission is accepted for publication. No information will be printed without the express approval of both parties.



Fresh Potpourri

1) 2012 Illinois Governor's Sustainability Awards Applications Open

Since 1987, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) has presented Governor's awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

Apply for this recognition by **May 25, 2012** by visiting [this link](#) and completing the application requirements

2) Farm to School at the at the Good Food Festival Friday, March 16th, 2012,

UIC Forum, 725 West Roosevelt Road Chicago, IL

The Good Food Festival and Conference celebrates leaders, businesses, and individuals that sustain the burgeoning, locally-driven Good Food Movement. Healthy Schools Campaign, Seven Generations Ahead, Illinois Farm to School Network, and FamilyFarmed.org will present programming focused on moving school food procurement towards more healthful, regionally-sourced and sustainably-produced options.

Click [here](#) for more information and to [purchase tickets](#)

3) Village of Homer Glen Earth Day ~ Arbor Day May 19th, 2012, 11am — 4pm

The Konow Farm, near 167th St. & Cedar Road.

The Earth Day~Arbor Day Committee is seeking people who use natural or recycled materials and objects to create products for show and sale. This is an opportunity for talented and clever people to show their ingenuity by participating in this exciting event. The Committee is also seeking children's activities, animal and nature friendly exhibits, antique and eco-friendly cars, green market solutions, demonstrations and ideas related to the theme and purpose of the event. Earth Day~Arbor Day is Saturday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Konow Farm in Homer Glen. Contact the Village of Homer Glen at www.homerglen.org or 708-301-0632.

4) Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioner's course in Joliet, IL March 7th-March 8th, 2012 — 8am-5pm (each day)

Will County Health Department Community Room
501 Ella Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60433

This 2-day training is free of charge, underwritten by EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, provided by trainers through the National Center for Healthy Housing, nchh.org, and is a good overview of Healthy Homes as well as a potential lead-in to earning a Healthy Homes Specialist Credential.






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This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Gabriel.Sulkes@illinois.gov.

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Governor Pat Quinn honors state agencies and public institutions at the 2011 GGCC Green Governments Awards ceremony on December 17th, 2011 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.